

Message Text

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SUBJ: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF
HAVANA AND UNIVERSITY OF GUAYAQUIL

1. UNIVERSITY OF GUAYAQUIL'S INTENTION TO SIGN EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA SURFACED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS ON OCTOBER 18-19, 1973. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED THAT U. OF G. RECTOR, DR. EDMUNDO DURAN DIAZ, WOULD SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE, INCLUDING AN EXCHANGE OF PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS, DURING A BRIEF STOP IN HAVANA EN ROUTE TO MOSCOW TO ATTEND WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED TO HAVANA BY DR. JOSE SANTOS RODRIGUEZ AND DR. ALFONSO QUIJANO COBOS, OF U. OF G. FACULTIES OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS, ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHERS, COMPRISED ECUADOREAN DELEGATION TO MOSCOW PEACE CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, UNIVERSITY OF HAVANA INITIATED PROJECT BY OFFERING TO EXCHANGE PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS. A SPECIAL COMMISSION DESIGNATED BY U. OF G. COUNCIL (CONSEJO UNIVERSITARIO) DREW UP PROGRAM PLANS. ORIGINAL REQUEST FROM HAVANA WAS CHanneled TO U. OF G. COUNCIL THROUGH DR. FRANKLIN VERDUGA, DIRECTOR OF U. OF G.'S SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY.

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3. APPARENTLY NO AGREEMENT WAS ACTUALLY SIGNED DURING OCTOBER TRIP BECAUSE A MID-JANUARY SPATE OF NEWSPAPER STORIES REPORTED DR. DURAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL THAT AT A FUTURE DATE AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES. PERHAPS U. OF G. SPOKESMAN MADE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT PREMATURELY, AND DURAN'S STOP IN HAVANA WAS PROBABLY DEVOTED TO EXPLORATORY TALKS ONLY.

4. IN HIS MID-JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENT DURAN SAID THAT U. OF G. HAD RECEIVED A COMMUNICATION FROM U. OF H. IN WHICH LATTER INDICATED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO SIGN AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT AND THAT SIMILAR COMMUNICATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY RECTORS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITIES OF QUITO AND CUENCA. THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZED DURAN TO INTENSIFY HIS EFFORTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT IN SAME MID-JANUARY MEETING.

5. ON JUNE 13, 1974, FINAL SIGNING OF AGREEMENT TOOK PLACE IN HAVANA WITH DR. DURAN SIGNING FOR U. OF G. AND DR. OSCAR GARCIA FERNANDEZ REPRESENTING U. OF H. FINAL AGREEMENT ESTABLISHES AN EXCHANGE OF PROFESSORS IN FIELDS OF LAW, HISTORY, SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION, LINGUISTICS AND LITERATURE, GEOPHYSICAL ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS, PSYCHOLOGY, MATHEMATICS, BIOLOGY, ECONOMICS, AGRICULTURE, VETERINARY SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND DENTISTRY. PROGRAM ALSO CALLS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF PEDAGOGICAL PLANS, PROGRAMS, AND MATERIALS IN FIELDS MENTIONED ABOVE, AS WELL AS AN INTERCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS AND INFORMATION TO AID DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMON CULTURAL EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THE TWO UNIVERSITIES.

6. ECUADOREAN STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN CUBA AT UNDER- AND POST-GRADUATE LEVELS IN SPECIFIED FIELDS, WHILE CUBAN STUDENTS WILL STUDY IN ECUADOR ON POST-GRADUATE LEVEL ONLY AND IN WHATEVER FIELDS THEY CHOOSE. THE TWO UNIVERSITIES WILL ALSO CO-OPERATE IN PROPITIATING CONTACTS BETWEEN OTHER ECUADOREAN AND CUBAN UNIVERSITIES.

7. COMMENT. SIGNING OF EXCHANGE AGREEMENT IS ADDITIONAL INDICATION OF INCREASING POLITICALIZATION OF U. OF G. WHOSE GROUNDS OFFICIALLY CHRISTENED "SALVADOR ALLENDE CAMPUS" LAST YEAR. UNIVERSITY IS CENTER FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND AGITATION AND EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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